

## Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending April 18, 2004

Released: 3:00 P.M., April 19, 2004

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending April 18, 2004**. Even though a good portion of the State received much needed rainfall this past week, the cooler than normal temperatures are taking their toll on emerging crops. Weather permitting, producers are continuing with corn, soybean and rice planting and getting started on cotton planting. Soil moisture was rated 6 percent very short, 19 percent short, 66 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	94	92	93	81	2	5	32	50	11
	Emerged	75	60	70	61					
Cotton	Planted	4	1	7	4	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Planted	22	19	24	21	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	11	2	6	6					
Sorghum	Planted	35	27	16	20	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	23	16	4	6					
Soybeans	Planted	45	39	26	16	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	24	12	12	7					
Wheat	Jointing	98	90	94	93	0	9	39	38	14
	Heading	72	35	29	53					
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	20	15	28	10	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	58	47	60	56	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						2	8	28	53	9
Pasture						5	10	41	41	3

### County Agent Comments

"The rains last week slowed planting and supplied much needed moisture. Most cotton farmers will begin planting today. Sunshine the past few days has made early-planted soybeans look much better."

— Ann Ruscoe, Coahoma

"Fields were too wet to do any work this past week. Snow showers and cold weather moved in Tuesday morning. Some frost appeared this week also. Very little corn has been planted. Producers are waiting for the soil to warm up before continuing planting corn or starting to plant soybeans."

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

"There has been plenty of moisture. Hay ground and pastures should take off with some warm weather. Producers will need to continue some supplementation on cattle, as quality of pasture grasses is not up to par yet."

— Kipp Brown, Carroll

"Rains received over the Easter weekend have stimulated pasture grass, hayfield grass and ryegrass to start growing again. Some weed control measures have started on Bermuda hayfields to control unwanted grassy weeds. Buttercup pastures are still being sprayed."

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Very little rain has occurred since mid-March. Most ryegrass is grazed short. There will not be much ryegrass hay baled here this year. Corn and watermelons are in need of rainfall. We have had some chinch bugs in corn, even where insecticides were applied at planting. The blueberry crop looks good at present.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“Growers should start back planting today. Crops that were planted before the rain are coming up nicely. Warm weather and sunshine are just what we need.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“The 3 ½ to 4 inches of rain we received last week stopped fieldwork. Most producers will be rolling on Monday. Cotton planting will get in high gear; soybean and rice planting will continue. The rice and soybeans that were planted before the rain will be okay; they will not have to be replanted.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Early planted soybeans are struggling from the cold temperatures and excess rain. Warm weather and sunshine will cure a lot of their problems.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Both snow and rain delayed all fieldwork last week. Producers are prepared to plant corn and soybeans when the weather permits.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We are through with the corn and about through with the soybeans. The only soybeans to be planted are those in flood prone fields. We will wait and put late 5's and a few wheat beans on in early May.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Two-to-four inches of rain were recorded Saturday through Tuesday and ended field work and planting. Corn planted before the rainfall appears to be emerging uniformly. Soybeans planted before the rainfall may have difficulty establishing uniform plant populations. Cool soil temperatures have delayed cotton planting.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Cool temperatures slowed germination of planted seeds. Insect pressure is light on crops and ornamentals. Nursery growers are fighting whitefly infestation.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“During the weekend of April 10 - 12, this area got 2.5 to 7 inches of rainfall. The fields with sandy soil texture dried enough to allow field work to began Friday. By Monday, April 19, most fields will be dry enough to allow fieldwork. This week, cotton, rice and soybean planting will be in high gear.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Rain over the Easter weekend could not have been ordered any better. Most areas got from 2 to 3 inches. We have never had so many soybeans planted this early in April.”

— Robert Martin, Sharkey

“Drying has been slow from the 3+ inches of rain that fell last week. No fieldwork, except for drainage projects, has taken place. Crops are emerging slowly due to cool temperatures.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Cool night temperatures have slowed the development of corn, but we should see fields begin to green up better this week. Cotton planting will begin throughout the area this week. Soybean planting will increase as well, although a few fields have already been planted.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“Last week we received much needed rain. It had been over 20 days since we had a good rainfall. After the rain, it turned unseasonable cool which slowed the development and growth of corn and soybeans. We will be busy this week if the weather permits cotton planting.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Some producers are having serious problems with cutworms and armyworms in corn fields. We are seeing uneven stands in many corn fields due to the lack of moisture at planting. Soybean planting is starting back full swing this week. Some cotton will be planted as producers start to look at the long-range weather forecast.”

— Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee

“The week started off cool and wet, halting field work and slowing pasture growth. However, by week's end tractors were rolling and pasture management was underway once again. Cotton planting should begin in the next 7 to 10 days. Corn planting is well underway and soybean planting has begun.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Soil moisture is short and we need rain for the majority of the county. Some farmers are getting ready to cut winter forages for hay.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Most of the county received less than 3/4 inch of rainfall early this week. This moisture was quickly absorbed or evaporated. Soil conditions remain terribly dry. Corn, ryegrass, and warm season forage growth is being severely hindered by lack of soil moisture.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Dry conditions continue. We need moisture to plant peanuts and cotton. Pastures are not off to a good start due to dry conditions. Cattle are improving in body condition due to ryegrass and some spring grass. Gardens are off to a slow start due to moisture problems.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Rain last week allowed producers to continue corn planting. Most of the corn has been planted. Winds dried the soil again and most field operations have once again ceased. Cooler temperatures have slowed the growth of all planted crops with a few reports of light frost damage on some early crops.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Rains that moved through the area last week gave crops, forages and ornamentals some relief; but without any rain this week, we are beginning to see some evidence of drought stress. Weather has been excellent for hay harvest.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“The rainfall last week has provided the needed moisture for crops. Pastures are improving with the rainfall and cattle have more grasses for grazing.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“The lack of rain has delayed crop emergence and the frosty weather damaged those crops that were already emerged.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

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Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Mississippi Cooperative  
Extension Service  
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Weather Summary from April 12, 2004 to April 18, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				61		3.70	+2.35	2	6.29				
Cleveland	76	42	54	61	-7	1.89	+0.66	2	3.86				
Tunica				61		1.36	+0.01	2	2.67				0.37
Extreme/Average	76	42	54	62	-8	2.32	+1.06	2	4.27				0.37
2. North-Central													
HickoryFlat	79	31	52	59	-7	2.35	+1.09	3	3.85				
Calhoun City	80	34	54	61	-7	1.48	+0.15	3	4.09				
Independence	78	33	54	60	-6	2.35	+1.23	3	3.55				
Oxford	77	31	54	60	-6	2.59	+1.40	3	4.37				
Extreme/Average	80	31	54	61	-7	2.19	+0.93	3	3.97				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	80	36	53	60	-7	1.74	+0.55	3	3.09				
Iuka	79	29	50	57	-7	1.76	+0.60	3	3.13				
Ripley	79	31	55	59	-4	2.22	+0.95	3	3.28				
Tupelo	81	37	55			1.15		2	2.77				
Verona				61		0.94	-0.27	3	2.59				0.19
Extreme/Average	81	29	53	61	-8	1.72	+0.53	3	3.07				
4. LowerDelta													
Moorhead	79	41	58	64	-6	2.48	+1.15	3	4.17				
RollingFork	83	41	58	63	-5	0.71	-0.61	1	1.70	69	58	60	
Stoneville	80	43	59	64	-5	2.16	+0.90	2	4.29	79	50	62	0.21
YazooCity	81	39	56	64	-8	2.04	+0.64	2	3.38				
Extreme/Average	83	39	58	64	-6	1.85	+0.52	2	3.39	79	50	61	0.21
5. Central													
Canton	79	34	55	64	-9	1.57	+0.24	2	2.54				
Carthage	80	36	56	62	-6	0.80	-0.55	2	2.13				
Lexington	80	34	54	62	-8	1.59	+0.30	2	3.03				
Eupora	81	33	53	61	-8	0.98	-0.30	3	2.12				
Extreme/Average	81	33	55	62	-7	1.32	-0.04	2	2.57				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	81	35	54	61	-7	0.78	-0.45	3	2.36				0.13
Houston	80	29	53	60	-7	1.14	-0.08	3	2.93				
Louisville	73	33	51	61	-10	0.90	-0.45	2	1.43				
StateUniversity	83	31	55	62	-7	0.52	-0.81	3	2.10	71	51	59	0.14
Extreme/Average	83	29	54	62	-8	0.81	-0.52	3	2.46	71	51	59	0.12
7. Southwest													
CrystalSprings	80	37	57	64	-7	0.92	-0.50	2	2.18	81	54	67	
Natchez	79	37	56	65	-9	0.20	-1.21	1	1.32				
Oakley	82	36	56	63	-7	0.72	-0.68	2	1.47	81	55	65	
Vicksburg	80	43	58			1.24		2	2.60				
Extreme/Average	82	36	57	64	-7	0.77	-0.63	2	1.89	81	54	66	
8. South-Central													
Collins	84	38	57	64	-7	0.53	-0.73	2	1.39				
Columbia	84	37	61	65	-4	0.27	-1.13	3	0.58				
Tylertown	82	38	58	65	-7	0.25	-1.08	2	0.74				
Extreme/Average	84	37	59	65	-6	0.35	-1.02	2	0.90				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	82	37	60			0.20		2	0.80				
Hattiesburg	80	39	59	65	-6	0.45	-0.83	2	0.55				
Laurel	82	36	60	64	-4	0.31	-0.88	3	0.48				
Newton				62					1.30				
Extreme/Average	82	36	59	64	-5	0.32	-0.92	2	0.61				
10.Coastal													
BayStLouis	76	38	58	66	-8	0.01	-1.23	1	0.55				
Gulfport	74	42	61	67	-6	0.02	-1.11	1	1.84				
Pascagoula				65		0.30	-0.69	2	0.83				
Poplarville	85	38	59	65	-6	0.08	-1.18	2	0.70	86	61	70	1.56
Waveland	75	42	60	66	-6	0.35	-0.98	2	1.97				
Extreme/Average	85	38	59	66	-7	0.15	-1.01	2	1.18	86	61	70	1.56
State	85	29	56	63	-7	1.11	-0.19	2	2.32	86	50	64	0.53

DFN = Departure from Normal.